

Vol. 62

February 1996

Issue 612



CLUB REPEATERS VE3TBR

Phone: 807-767-7661
Listen: 146.820 MHz
Txmit: 146.220 MHz
Listen: 444.825 MHz
Txmit: 449.825 MHz

VE3YQT

Phone: 807-767-5492
Listen: 147.060 MHz
Txmit: 146.460 MHz

VA3OLA

Listen: 53.050MHz
Txmit: 52.050MHz

WEEKLY BREAKFASTS

Saturdays 9:30 a.m.
Blue Parrot Restaurant
376 Lisgar Street
(Off Memorial Avenue)

2m MINI-NET

Mondays 7:00 p.m.
VE3YQT Repeater.

NEXT MEETING



7:30 p.m. Room 214
McIntyre Building
Confederation College

SHORTWAVES

Well, I suppose that the Blizzard of '96 will be the topic of conversation until the spring melts the tonnes of snow. First, please note the announcement for the club's annual dinner.

LARC ANNUAL DINNER
FEBRUARY 8th, 1996, 7:00 P.M.
LANDMARK INN
PRIME RIB DINNER
TICKETS \$23.00

GUEST SPEAKER-DRAWS-ETC.
TICKET(S) CAN BE PICKED UP
FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE EXEC
OR BY CALLING SKIP OR TERRY AT
HOME OR AT "THE SHOP" AND WE
WILL BOOK YOUR TICKET(S).

Second, we have a new 6 metre repeater. The callsign is VA3OLA, receive 53.050MHz and transmit 52.050MHz. Separate antennas are on towers located at Pat's, VA3GD's place. Many thanks go to the 6m "pair" of Dave, VA3DVE and Don, VA3DPB. Ramsey makes a great 6m transceiver kit (hint).

Third, Randy, VA3GOT has set up a test simulcast on 146.000 FM simplex of the northwestern Ontario HF net (3750kHz). The simulcast is broadcast daily at 2015 hours local and Randy would appreciate any signal reports from those listening.

And, last but not least, Dave, VE3AVS (Alvays Vanting Snow and getting it!) has established a test RTTY station on 145.050 MHz as a local simplex channel for BAUDOT (RTTY) communications. Dave is transmitting a test tape daily (Monday through Friday) at 2100 hours local for 10 to 15 minutes. Baud rate 45 and narrow (200Hz) shift. He also will be available for QSOs after the test tape.

Now, for some really great news! The Discovery channel will be airing a 2 hour special on the AMSAT satellites (the amateur radio satellites) called "Eyes In The Sky" on March 15th. Check your TV

guide for local times. The Discovery channel is channel 37 in Thunder Bay. Hopefully, someone will make a tape of the show.

For those who receive TCA, please take a look, again, at the January 1996 issue, page 19 and also page 40. Recognize anyone that you know? I talked to Wayne, VA3LOG about his "keyer". It does work and it is an ingenious combination of supposedly non-related things. I suppose that you could always "shoot" the code instructor, hi, hi. Although, Ed doesn't use blanks, Wayne.

Also, the LARC has been recognized as one of the first clubs, in Canada, to use email as a method to distribute its newsletter. So, for the record, I've made it official. I'm hearing positive feedback from club members getting the email version of HI-Q plus I've heard from other BBS operators who have picked up HI-Q and are redistributing it.

Please read Ed's, VA3ER's open letter to the membership, *carefully*. Then do some thinking about your "career" in and commitment to the amateur radio service and its national organization.—Ed.

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1995/1996 LARC

Founding President
P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, VE3FW
1881-1972

In honour of the memory of our founding president, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club callsign is VE3FW.

Senate

Bill Roberts, VE3ARN
Keith Fiske, VE3JQ
Bert Lambert, VE3BKY
Ray Greer, VE3CH
Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW
Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

Executive Board

President: T. Stewardson, VE3TKA,	577-9439
Vice Pres: Ed Baumann, VE3SNW,	622-1216
Secretary: Norm Bell, VE3XRC,	577-9316
Treasurer: "Skip" Wright, VE3BBS,	767-2307
Directors: Ian Mellis, VA3RIM,	577-1628
Dave Horne, VA3DVE,	344-9325
Don Bel, VA3DPB,	473-5482
John Watson, VE3GTX,	683-3199
Mem.Sec: John Watson, VE3GTX,	683-3199
Past Pres: Mark Vukovich, VE3VUK,	345-5856
HI-Q Ed: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM,	344-7731

Club and Newsletter Information

HI-Q is published by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., an Ontario registered non-profit corporation. The opinions expressed or implied in issues of *HI-Q* are those of the author. The LARC assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or the information submitted.

Material in *HI-Q* may be copied for non-profit use provided that credit is given to the source. Contributions related to amateur radio, especially those articles of interest to northwestern Ontario amateurs are encouraged. Material can be submitted in WordPerfect® format or as a text file or via fax to: 807-345-2688 or via packet radio to: VA3ROM@VE3TKA#NON.ON.CAN.NA or voice mail on the VE3TBR repeater to user 159 or via Email to: bob.mazur@oln.com. Send material or dated announcements no later than the 20th of the month in which it is to appear.

To reduce production and distribution costs, advertising at the following per issued rates is accepted: full-page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) are available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your ad copy and cheque (payable to the LARC) to the club address listed below. Advertising in *HI-Q* does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service by the LARC.

LARC membership fees are set for the year as follows: regular—\$30.00, associate—\$20.00, associate (attending ham classes)—\$80.00, student (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. *HI-Q* is sent to all LARC members but only one copy is mailed to each address.

Mailing Address

The club mailing address is: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 4A3, Canada.

Internet Home Page

Len, VA3LEB sponsors an Internet home page for the the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. The address is: <http://www.foxnet.net/larc/larc.html>.

Thunder Bay Voyageur Award

The LARC, in cooperation with the City of Thunder Bay, sponsors this award. Anyone working or monitoring 5 Thunder Bay amateur radio stations qualifies. Send your log copy with callsigns, dates, times, frequencies and \$2.00 Canadian to the club address listed on this page.

The Mailbox FREE BBS

Members of the LARC can join a free BBS service, sponsored by Gary Elder. You need a computer with a terminal program and a modem.

To try out the BBS or to register with Gary, call 475-7405. Set your modem for 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and No parity with ANSI terminal emulation.

T & S Radio Electronics

VE3TKA

Terry Stewardson

VE3BBS

Skip Wright

2052 Dawson Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 5E3

PHONE (807) 767-5224 FAX (807) 768-8164

FOR AMATEURS BY AMATEURS

Across from Five Mile School on Highway 102
at the Dawson Road Country Store

Meeting Minutes by Norm, VE3XRC

Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 214 at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on January 11, 1996.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson with 38 members and guests in attendance. The meeting started off with a round-table of those in attendance introducing themselves.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held December 14, 1995 were published in detail in the January edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members. **Motion:** moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VA3BRN, Gerry Burney that the minutes be accepted as published. **Carried.**

Correspondence: none

Treasurer's Report

VE3BBS, Skip Wright reported the annual 1995/96 financial statement as of January 11, 1996 as follows:

Balance as of December 14, 1995:
\$2,428.11

Income: 506.55

Expenses: 345.83

Balance as of January 11, 1996:
\$2,588.83

Motion: moved by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki and seconded by VE3RVA, Bob Hansen that the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

President's Report VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson

A new 6m repeater is now on the air using the call sign VE3OLA, receive 52.050MHz and transmit 53.050MHz.

Starting Monday, January 15 at 7:30 p.m., there will be code practice

transmitted on VE3TBR. This code practice will be on Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 5 words-per-minute. Terry is still working on the automation of the system and the making of the tapes. Text will be from *HI-Q*.

NWO Call Book: a committee has been formed and we will try printing the new version of the NWO Call Book ourselves. The first printing will be 100 copies. It is hoped to have them ready for the February meeting. The cost will be approximately \$6.00.

Club Membership: as of January 11, 1996 there are 128 paid-up members.

Reports

I-500: is a definite go on Sunday, January 21, 1996 with the start line at Old Fort William. Entries appear to be down this year, but the organizers are expecting 200 to 225 machines to take part. The communications system will be run on VE3YQT. Net control will be set up at Old Fort William with check points at the junction of Highways 61 and 608, Canadian fuel stop, Larson Road, border crossing, Otter Lake, Devils Track Lake (fuel stop) and Grand Marais. (*The I-500 was canceled on January 16th due to open water conditions on rivers south of the U.S. border.—Ed.*)

Bear Grease Sled Dog Race: starts Sunday January 21, 1996 from Duluth to Grand Portage and return. Club members will man the check point at Grand Portage.

Old Business

HI-Q Distribution: VA3GD, Pat Doherty mentioned that he was getting his *HI-Q* by both email and "snail mail". VA3ROM, Bob Mazur stated that he is still working on a distribution system that will meet the needs of everyone.

New Business

Annual Dinner: will be held on

Thursday, February 8, 1996 at the Landmark Inn on Dawson Road. Cash bar will open at 6:30 p.m. with dinner scheduled for 7:00 p.m. The members present decided on the prime rib menu. Guest speaker for the evening will OPP Constable Mike Potvin who is the Thunder Bay District Coordinator for Crimestoppers.

Adjournment: moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

50/50 Draw: winner of the 50/50 draw was VA3ER, Ed Rehfuhs.

Following a short break, VA3DVE, Dave Horne presented a session on electrical safety and tower climbing safety. This included a video tape of actual electrical accidents and a demonstration of his climbing equipment he uses with Ontario Hydro.

Ham to Ham

What would you like to see in future issues of *HI-Q*? Here's your chance to send me a fax, email, packet, voice mail or phone call about your preferences for the club newsletter. Also, what would you like to contribute to *HI-Q*? Everyone has a story to tell or else you wouldn't be in ham radio, hi! I know that there is a lot of talented hams out there and I can't understand why they are reluctant to share their experiences with others.

The old-timers sulk about the newcomers, the newcomers sulk about the code. Doesn't anyone have fun anymore out there?

Ham radio helped me get through a rough couple of years. What has amateur radio done for you and what are you doing for amateur radio? Drop me a line and tell others, too. Ham to ham.—Ed.

Patrick Joseph O'Shea, VE3FW

The following article about P.J. O'Shea was written shortly before his untimely death. Ian, VA3RIM mentioned that he had a copy of the story and this month we are paying tribute to a truly fine man. And, his friend, Les Harris, whom I had a passing acquaintance with, is right up there, as well, as a FB OM. This is a reprint from an earlier HI-Q article. It's for the benefit of the newer club members who have no knowledge of the past history of the club and its personalities.—Ed.

FOREWORD

Patrick Joseph O'Shea was the first president of the Canadian Lakehead Wireless Experimenters (later renamed the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club). He was, also, in those early days, Radio Inspector at Fort William, Ontario (now Thunder Bay). Also, he gave amateur examinations for Amateur Radio Certificates. These certificates were issued at that time by the Department of Marine under the provisions of the Radiotelegraph Act, RS. of Canada 1927, C195. My certificate was signed by P.J. O'Shea, 18 June 1930, No. 1084. The late Brien O'Brien's similar certificate was also signed by Pat O'Shea.

A paper by an unknown writer on "The House of Providence" Dundas letter head, gives us some of the very interesting history of Patrick Joseph O'Shea, which I understand will be included in *HI-Q* in two parts.

Unfortunately, Pat was accidentally killed in an accident at Dundas, Ontario.—Les Harris, VE3AYZ.

Octogenarian Amateur Operator, January 1970.

Far removed from the popular image of the garrulous Irishman of stage and screen, Patrick O'Shea is a quiet, reserved man whose fresh colouring and erect carriage belie his eighty-nine years. His counterpart is probably a tweed-clad country gentleman strolling with dog and gun over the green acres of the homeland, but to our Mr. O'Shea, the leisure year represent merely a change in activities. No longer gainfully employed, he is a full-time ham radio operator, call No. VE3FW, whose base is the House of Providence in Dundas, Ontario.

Pat O'Shea is not an easy man to know. He does not care for small talk, and although unfailingly courteous, he avoids the groups where his contemporaries converse at length about personalities and the weather. The author of "The Lonely Crowd" probably described best this attitude of the individual

who walks alone, surrounded by many whose interests touch him but briefly, but when one can have the latest news from Caracas or exchange views with a radio friend in Whitehorse at the turn of a dial, he is not likely to miss local politics or the probabilities of snow tonight.

Early Beginning

Patrick Joseph O'Shea was born in 1881 in Athlone on the Shannon, County Westmeath, Ireland. At the age of nineteen, he joined the army and went off to the South African War (Boer War). In the army he learned International Morse code and served as a signaler, marking the beginning of a life-long interest in transmitting and receiving. When the war was over, he returned to England, and after a few years in London, he came to Canada in 1908 and embarked on a long and varied career. Like many another newcomer to this country, he started with work in the bush, followed by several years on the railroad. He had been trained as a pressman printer in the old country, and in time he had opportunity to practice this trade on the Calgary Herald.

In 1914, he went to Fort William to work at the Times-Journal. Recognized as an expert in printing machinery, he was later brought to Toronto as a printing plant engineer, a career he followed until his retirement at the age of 67. After some time spent in Peterboro, he took up residence in 1965 at the House of Providence in Dundas.

The World at his Fingertips

Retirement made more time available for Mr. O'Shea's hobby. First licensed as an amateur operator in 1925, he is now the oldest member of the Radio Society of Ontario, which includes all active amateur operators in the province. During the forty-five years which have elapsed since his licensing, operator VE3FW has transmitted and received messages from operators around the world. Riffing through the QSL cards he receives and examining his record of calls is the equivalent of armchair travel: Guatemala, Sweden, Russia, Japan, China, Greenland, Norway, Australia, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Cuba, Equador, and many more. It is with some chagrin that Mr. O'Shea describes the great tragedy which befell him when he was leaving Fort William, when by mistake the contents of his filing cabinet which contained countless such messages, was burned.

Asked about the special calls which represent high drama to the uninitiated, Mr. O'Shea recalled one he

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

received while in Fort William from the Canadian ship Bonaventure. He was able to telephone the operator's mother who happened to live in the same city, and put her in touch with her son, then on the high seas. On another occasion he made contact with two Canadians and two Americans manning the most northerly weather station on Ellsmere Island, and put them in touch with their families.

Mr. O'Shea claims that as the years go by, he has less interest in establishing contact with new and distant places, and spends more time chatting with radio acquaintances he has made through the years. Many are known to each other only by their call numbers, but they are nevertheless very real friends, mutually interested in the other's welfare and family. Birthdays are honoured by both radio and card and Christmas greetings exchanged. Mr. O'Shea spends considerable time, too, in keeping touch with members of his family, not by letter, for letter-writing has become laborious, but by tape, chatting with his daughter in Burlington, a niece at Oxford, a nephew in London, a son-in-law in Thunder Bay, and receiving their replies for recording.

Through his pastime, windows have been opened for this man upon some of the world's famous places, but only one country calls to him now, the land of his birth. He would like to visit his sister in Ireland, but travel at eighty-nine is precarious, and so reminiscences must serve in its place. These are not lacking: Belfast for instance, and his unit returning from South Africa and he as a member of the honour guard of fifty for the visit of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, every man of them with a medal, a rarity at that time ("not until the war of 1914 did a man come back with a chestful of medals.")

His choicest yarn is possibly one about John McCormack. The great tenor had been his classmate at school, and when the class was once called upon to sing for a visiting inspector, the two fourteen-year-olds were paired to sing together. John McCormack even then was being acclaimed as a singer and was much in demand for concerts. "I had the voice of a crow, to be sure", he recalls, "but just this once I sang with John McCormack!"

The days are not dull for Pat O'Shea. Up with the birds, seven days a week, he serves as an altar boy for the early morning Mass, and makes his daily visits to the chapel. The occasional trip to town for mysterious bits of equipment, the intricate tinkering, and steadfast devotion to his hobby fill his days, and no doubt account to a considerable extent for his continuing good health. For operator VE3FW, life is well worth while at eighty-

VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau by Bob, VE3SRE

My name is Bob, VE3SRE and I'm the guy who sorts the "S" files for the VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau. I saw your newsletter on packet from the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club.

If anyone wants to receive their QSL cards on a regular basis they should send some self-addressed mailing labels along with \$5.00 to the VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau at P.O. Box 157, Downsview, Ontario M3M 3A3. We will deduct the postage + GST + 10 cents for an envelope from the \$5.00. This is our preferred way of doing things in Ontario. SASE's are a bit of a pain as the postage rates keep going up and often people send in funny sized envelopes that are impractical for sending out QSL cards.

I would be thankful if you could give the info out in general as just about anyone who's active on the HF bands at all or is on amateur satellites, VHF/UHF SSB etc. will have some QSL cards on file with the bureau. I have lots of cards sitting here unclaimed and I'd much rather have the amateur have their cards rather than have them sit in a box in my basement gathering dust! And all of the QSL card sorters have got unclaimed QSL cards on file.

From time to time we do "detective" work to try to find out whom they belong to (hi). Anyway, just as I think all

hams should join RAC, I think they all should keep a few bucks on file with the QSL bureau.

I enjoy the packet version of your newsletter. It was informative and chatty and gave us a nice "flavour" of the amateur radio scene in Thunder Bay.

I write the ham radio column for *DX Ontario*, the major SWL club here in Ontario and I'm going to "steal" (hi) some of the info from time to time from your newsletter. All newsletter editors steal from each other (hi). Except people should watch what they steal from me in April (hi). *The infamous April Fool's day joke about Industry Canada banning all communications on amateur radio bands relating to code versus nocode. A lot of red faces on that one at some major amateur radio magazine publishing houses.—Ed.*

73 & thanks for reading this...and keep up the good work on the newsletter!

You don't have to belong to RAC to use the incoming QSL bureau, but you must be a current member of RAC to use the outgoing bureau. They save you a lot of money and make it easy to handle QSLs from foreign countries. Bureaus are run by volunteer hams.—Ed.

An Open Letter to the Membership by Ed, VA3ER

I am disappointed, maybe ashamed by the action and behaviour of the LARC membership—at least by about 88% of the membership.

The minutes of the December 1995 meeting stated that only 12% of the membership is also a member of the national organization—RAC Radio Amateurs of Canada. The same minutes stated that the LARC has 140 members; 12% of them means only 17 hams are members of the national amateur radio organization. Why don't the other 123 club members join RAC?

It can't be a money problem. I have been told that at the Saturday breakfast meeting as an average more than 17 people show up. As the average breakfast order comes to at least \$4.00 and as an RAC membership costs only \$38 that means skipping 10 breakfast meetings comes equal to an annual RAC membership. Many of those 88% non-members don't seem to realize the benefits of an RAC membership.

You not only receive within a year eleven issues of a well-written, professionally edited and printed magazine, that is not only informative, but virtually a must-read for any licensed amateur radio operator in Canada, because the magazine, TCA The Canadian Amateur, is the link between the official forces—Industry Canada and the average ham.

In TCA you read about the changes of laws and regulations that affect the operation of every Canadian ham. In plain English: TCA is a must read for any licensed ham in Canada.

Furthermore, you get free QSL-card forwarding service. That service alone is worth the \$38 per year. Mailing out 40 QSL-cards directly to overseas operators will cost you already \$38 plus GST. But, then, those 88% may be also the same hams that don't mail out any QSL cards, or worst, don't acknowledge QSL cards at all. Those operators don't have a clue what this hobby is

all about.

Also, there is strength in numbers. The unions have proved that over and over in the past. In a way, RAC is the union of amateur radio operators. I understand even farmers have a union. So, why don't you join the ham radio union? The RAC "union bosses" are the spokes people who negotiate the contracts (conditions) with Industry Canada.

Okay, I may be a little bit biased when it comes to joining the RAC. My XYL, Ine, VE3OTV, and I are not only members of Radio Amateurs of Canada; in the past, I have been a member with several national amateur organizations: i.e. Canadian Amateur Radio Federation (CARF), Canadian Radio Relay League (CRRL), American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) and Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), depending on the location of my QTH.

You may ask, if I (or we) did benefit from being a member with those organizations? Besides receiving all the benefits that I have mentioned above, there was one incident, when our membership with the CRRL (now RAC) had been rewarded plentiful.

In 1992, Ine and I were charged with mischief by the Thunder Bay Police Force and the Crown Attorney of Ontario because of RFI in the neighbourhood. That was a criminal offense. We had to hire a lawyer and appeared four times in court. Although our lawyer was well-known and an expert when it came to murderers and rapists, but ham radio RFI was not his bag.

Luckily we were members of the CRRL—one of the fore-runners of RAC and its lawyer was willing to assist our lawyer. The CRRL-lawyer found in the Criminal Code of Canada an antidote to the charges that were laid against us. To make a long story short, it was published in both QST Canada and HI-Q. The CRRL lawyer and our membership in

the CRRL (now RAC) saved us a bundle of money. Lawyers charge between \$200 and \$400 per hour.

All non-members of RAC should ask themselves if they are prepared to go it alone. Saving \$38 annually may be actually a foolish thing to do. In my opinion, it's like being penny-wise and pound-foolish at the same time.

The fact is, RAC needs you as a paying member and you need RAC to protect your interests. Some of you don't know it, because you don't get TCA magazine; our hobby is endangered. They (certain international interest groups) want our frequencies. We may lose them, if we don't stick together and show an united front. We may encounter power restrictions by Industry Canada, if we don't present a forceful lobby which looks after our interests.

With your help, RAC may be able to convince Industry Canada to restrict the sale of consumer electronics only to RFI-proof equipment as it is the case in Europe. That step will solve most RFI problems instantly. All this costs money. RAC is pooling this money in form of the \$38 annual membership dues. Look, I am not a salesman for RAC. I am also not a member in all the clubs that exist for all the other hobbies or interests that I have; amateur radio is only one of them. But, I know, if a hobby is government regulated, one has to protect his or her interests, because you never know what politicians and bureaucrats might come up with. You know what happened to hunters and gun owners in Canada with the gun registration law, recently.

Considering all the facts, you can only gain by becoming a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada. Why don't you become a member right away. Get in touch with RAC directly, but don't forget to mention the LARC account number (LAK 101) to assure the local club gets a commission or talk to your local RAC representative—John, VE3GTX.

73—Ed, VA3ER.

I came across this 1959 bulletin that has two items in particular that interested me. The first one reports the first use of the club's station, VE3ZCD. The second item talks about up-grading from Experimental to Advanced simply by applying for it if you have been active for twelve months. It sounds like "Grandfathering" by application.

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Monthly Bulletin, February 1959

The next regular monthly meeting will be held in the Civil Defense Building on Thursday, February 19th at 8:15 p.m. Be on hand for some interesting pictures courtesy of the Bell Telephone Company.

For those who were unable to attend the January meeting please note the following: There has been instituted a work night for all members who wish to take part in the construction and/or operation of the equipment. The first of these work nights took place on January 20th and the second will be held on Tuesday February 16th. These extra nights are over and above the regular work night on the first Tuesday of each month and have been held in order that construction of the two metre equipment be got under way. We now have one receiver converter and one transmitter/modulator almost completed. These will be on display at the meeting and all members are urged to attend in order that they can see what parts are required and can get started on building their own transmitters and converters.

Another event worthy of note has taken place in the club's history. We have for some time been working towards a club station and this has now become a reality. Station VE3ZCD is now on the air. On January 20th George Lord, VE3BYG worked the first W (Kansas)

followed by Ken McDonald, VE3ECK who worked a K4 from Tennessee. These will not break any DX records but it is a beginning. Operation was on 3760 kc, CW VFO, operation should be possible at the next meeting.

Members who have held an Amateur Experimental Station License for the past twelve months and have been active during that time are eligible for an Advanced Radio Operating Certificate. Les Harris, VE3AYZ will give you the details. The Secretary has a syllabus from DOT on the subject.

Q R M

George Fraser, VE3BED has some good equipment for sale. Includes: power supplies, B. & W. finals, etc.

Les Harris, VE3AYZ advises that Ontario Civil Defense Stations have a schedule on Wednesday evenings.

VE7JB on the west coast is Editor of a Canadian Amateur Magazine and a few of the local hams have seen the first complimentary issue. The boys have done a good job with the first issue and all those interested in a wholly Canadian Amateur Magazine should get behind this venture.

Rudy Schlereth, VE3ECR of Red Rock has some TVI troubles. Any suggestions?

Walter Einarson, VE3ECB has moved to a new QTH and more TVI troubles.

N.B. If any member has news he would like put on the next bulletin would he kindly phone in to VE3ANP at 555-7748 as we are running short of material. (*Some things never change.*—Ed.)

Also if any member wishes transportation to the amateur radio meetings would they kindly contact VE3ANP at 555-7748 in plenty of time and we will try and arrange a ride.

Odds 'n Ends

CQ Publications has started the publication of *CQ VHF*. This new magazine is dedicated to the world of VHF communications above 50MHz. Judging from the first issue, I would recommend that every new ham start reading and learning from its well-written and informative pages.

I especially like the "Fast Facts" and "Snapshots" tidbits. Here's one that I bet even the old-timers didn't know about. Apparently, Samuel F.B. Morse didn't invent the "Morse" code. His assistant, Alfred Vail come up with the idea of dots

and dashes in combinations to represent the characters and numbers. Morse hired Vail so that he could get financial backing from Vail's well-to-do father.

Because Vail's work was and still is considered a "work-for-hire" all rights, patents and copyrights belong to the employer, Samuel Morse in this case. Poor Alfred Vail. His name belongs to that long list of unknown and unsung heroes who really did the work and never received the proper credit. Anyone remember Elijah Gray? Alexander Graham Bell's father-in-law beat him to the U.S. Patent Office by 4

hours with this new device called the "telephone" without Alex's knowledge!

There's Nikola Tesla, perhaps the greatest electrical genius in history aside from some guy named Benjamin Franklin. He battled Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse and lost his fame and fortune and place in history. To this day, the Smithsonian refuses to acknowledge that he and not Edison nor Westinghouse developed the AC power systems that we use today. Guess who provides funding to the museum? Read the December 1995 and January 1996 issues of 73 magazine.—Ed.



WORKED ONTARIO PORTS AWARD

Port Albert
Port Blake
Port Britain
Port Burwell
Port Carmen
Port Credit
Port Dalhousie
Port Dover
Port Elmsley
Port Glasgow
Port Hope
Port Loring
Port McNicoll
Port Perry
Port Rowan
Port Sandfield
Port Stanley
Port Sydney
Port Talbot
Port View Beach

Port Alma
Port Bolster
Port Bruce
Port Carling
Port Colborne
Port Cunningham
Port Darlington
Port Elgin
Port Franks
Port Grandby
Port Lambton
Port Maitland
Port Milford
Port Robinson
Port Ryerse
Port Severn
Port Stanton
Port Royal
Port Union
Port Weller

This certifies that _____
has this day submitted satisfactory log evidence showing two-way
communication with other Amateur Radio stations with at least five "Ports" if
you are DX, and with at least ten "Ports" if you are located in North America.
Any QTH in the Province of Ontario, Canada (VE3 call area) beginning with
the word "Port" qualifies.

This certificate is hereby issued in recognition of this excellent
performance.

Dated at London, Ontario Canada

attested and signed

Robert E. Morden
VE3EIM, Sponsor
Ex: ZL1AX; ZL2QA; ZL2FF/MM

Certificate No. _____

"Lighthouse at Port Dover"

"WORKED ONTARIO PORTS AWARD"

Applicants need to work the required number of Amateur Radio stations located in the "Ports" of the Province of Ontario, Canada.

No band or mode limitations. QSL cards are not required. Contacts may be made with either Fixed, Portable or Mobile stations.

A list of the required number of contacts showing Date, Time, Mode and definite location of the station worked must be submitted. All contacts for this Award must have been made after January 1st, 1990.

North American Amateurs must contact TEN different "Port" stations. All others must contact FIVE different "Port" stations.

Award is available to Short-wave Listeners.

Working the sponsor station VE3EIM counts as one "Port".

If you activate a "Port" yourself, that counts as one "Port" for you.

The fee for the Award is \$2.00 or 10 IRC's. The address for application is:

Mr. Robert Morden, VE3EIM
106 Renny Cres.,
London, Ontario
Canada, N6E 2C5

Ontario hams do your part to help others obtain the award and activate any of the above ports when you get time. Don't forget you don't have to send out any QSL's so therefore the cost is minimal.